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Reporting

Chief, Requirements Staff

18 OCT 1950

Assistant Director, ORE

Reporting by the Foreign Service

1. Present arrangements for the fulfillment of CIA requirements for reporting on political, economic, and sociological matters from non-covert sources are entirely inadequate. This is due in a large measure to the dependence of CIA on State Department sources and the present system of reporting by the Foreign Service. The following defects have been noted in this system:

a. Selection of reporting personnel without adequate training in political science, economics, and sociology.

b. Failure to recognize adequately changes of emphasis and the importance of particular situations in the assignment or transfer of sufficient numbers of personnel to cover the situation.

c. Assignment of collateral duties to reporting personnel that reduces their efficiency as reporters.

d. Failure to establish a system for the rapid transmission of intelligence requirements to the field.

e. Failure to maintain a dynamic control over the reporting system to ensure its fulfillment of the Government's needs for information.

Of particular concern to CIA is the present system which permits the Department of State to censor or delay requirements and prevents CIA from taking adequate follow-up action to ensure collection.

2. In recent conferences between members of the ORE Plans and Policy Staff and representatives of the Bureau of the Budget who were making a survey of Foreign Service reporting, CIA was criticized sharply for its failure to initiate action to correct the defects outlined above.

3. The Requirements Staff is directed to undertake, in conjunction with the Plans and Policy Staff and other appropriate components of CIA, a program for the preparation of recommendations and for initiating follow-up action that will correct the defects noted above. The ORE Requirements Staff should furnish the dynamic leadership in the collection of non-covert information, that so far has been lacking in Washington.

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Addressee O&I

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